

MINUTES

Eugene Human Rights Commission
Sloat Room – 99 West 10th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon

April 16, 2013
5:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Toni Gyatso, Chair, Andrew Thomson, Vice Chair; Iva Boslough, Denise Griewisch, Chris Nunes, Richie Weinman commissioners

ABSENT: Linda Hamilton, Ken Neubeck, Greg Evans commissioners

The mission of the Human Rights Commission is to promote implementation of human rights values and principles in all City of Eugene programs and throughout the wider community.

To carry out this mission the commission shall affirm, encourage, and initiate programs and services within the City of Eugene and the wider community designed to place priority upon protecting, respecting, and fulfilling the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To support and promote human rights, the commission will: provide human rights education, be proactive in human rights efforts, address human rights violations, ensure active public participation, be transparent and open, and be publicly accountable for human rights progress.

1. **Welcome from Chair** – meeting commenced at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustment**
Chris Nunes motioned that the agenda be approved as written, Denise Griewisch seconds, passed unanimously
3. **Minute Review and Approval**
Richie Weinman motioned that the minutes be approved as written, Chris Nunes seconds, passed unanimously
4. **Funding Requests**
Support requests were received from DisOrient Film Festival and McKenzie River Gathering for their Peace in the Park event.

DisOrient Funding Request: Chris Nunes motioned to fund the requested \$200 seconded by Richie Weinman passed unanimously.

Co-sponsorship requires participation by HRC, Chris Nunes, Richie Weinman, and Toni Gyatso volunteer to attend, Ken Neubeck had expressed interest and will be called upon as backup if necessary.

McKenzie River Gathering requested sponsorship of their Peace and Pie in the Park event August 4, 2013. They would like to request the reservation of Alton Baker Park shelters 1 and 2. Richie Weinman motions to grant the request to make a reservation on behalf of the HRC, Denise Grieswich seconds, passed unanimously.

This type of support requires HRC participation, Andrew Thomson volunteers to attend and it is recommended that new commissioners that come on in July be encouraged to attend as well.

5. Staff Updates

Ken Neubeck requested for staff to put forward a request for a 3 month leave from the HRC for health related issues. Denise Grieswich motions to approve the leave from May-July, Chris Nunes seconds, passed unanimously.

Scheduling HRC Meetings in May and June

Lindsey Foltz presents the various invitations from different groups for the HRC to participate in joint work. The HRC deliberated numerous options and decided to take the following action:

May 15 Invitation to Join Sustainability Commission
All available commissioners will attend this meeting.

May 29 Invitation to give input on DPSZ committee
All available commissioners will attend this meeting but there are known conflicts for some commissioners.

June 4 Rescheduled HRC Meeting (in lieu of May 21 meeting), 5:30-8:30 pm
Regular business meeting where Sustainability Meeting and DPSZ will be discussed as well as any comments or recommendations regarding the budget process.

June 5 Chair commits to testifying at Budget Public Hearing
Presenting any agreed upon statement if required. Other commissioners encouraged to attend.

June 18 Regularly scheduled June HRC meeting
Shortened format to attend only to pressing issues.

Sgt. David Natt – EPD Presented first quarter Bias Crime Report
Noted a significant amount of graffiti activity, and an arrest on an assault motivated by sexual orientation

Can get comparison, year over year and return that information to the HRC

Commented that there were some internal routing issue, where the cases were not flagged b/c and therefore the year over year numbers may reflect an increase in part due to better capturing of information, working to improve that coordination and officer awareness of response and protocol

Iva Boslough commented that crimes against homeless are a concern, doesn't feel this data is representative of the actual situation, would like more information on crimes committed against homeless

Richie Weinman: Can you comment on crime downtown, can you comment anecdotally

Sgt. Natt noted the early arrival of the travelers this year, probably see them downtown through Country Fair and beyond, more people out, weather is drier

Won't comment recommends requesting input from bike officers or other downtown situation at night because it is not his personal experience

f/u regarding bb gun case and hot dog vendor

Denise Griewisch: also concerned regarding homeless statistics

Sgt Natt discussed the challenging nature of determining the motivating factor in crimes

Mike Kinnison: Follow up on gender identity language, the state passed the law including gender identity under the definition of sexual orientation as a protected class. City of Eugene code has not been updated to re-classify the definition. Consulted with City Attorney regarding updating the code: can happen a number of ways, goes before Council as a Council work session, a Councilor can ask to put it on the agenda and discuss it, the other way is for staff to make the request to put it on the agenda.

Richie Weinman: can we ask about housekeeping after the session because of new legislation that is passed, if not can we direct staff

Motion: For the HRC direct staff to facilitate scheduling a Council work session on the topic with support from the Chairs during their quarterly

meeting with the City Manager. Richie Weinman puts forward the motion, Denise Grieswisch seconds, passes unanimously.

Mike Kinnison: memo will go out this week regarding transgender health insurance exclusion, Toni will get copy of memo to Seda on Friday.

John Belcher: Here from planning commission, thank you for the work that you are doing.

The planning commission recognizes that there are a lot of areas of overlap, living and livelihood, housing affordability and affordable housing, planning commission not very diverse and input not representative of the community, wants to be more connected to input from HRC and liaison relationships. Want to improve communication and input.

Monday they will meet from 11:30-1:30 pm, a webcast will be available, regarding the Equity and Opportunity Assessment

Planning commission has 2 primary roles, quasi-judicial land use decisions, and policy decisions that are forwarded to council that have community wide implications

During work planning in July to flag possible liaison relationships with planning commission.

6. Break

7. Work Group Review and Strategy

Goal 3.1 Homelessness

Pending areas/issues identified to focus on:

- April CC work session on homelessness camping ban – Iva to attend
- County Continuum of Care Board – invite Pearl Wolfe and city staff to speak to HRC possibly in June
- Budget commentary
- DPSZ – Toni discussed judge as potential speaker
- Conestoga huts siting/funding (FY14 item)

Goal 3.2 Respond to advocate on youth issues

Pending areas/issues identified to focus on:

- Gang Symposium on 4/27
- Investigate existing programs in schools and identify where they need areas of support (helpful to know for FY14 work planning; Denise volunteered to lead and bring back a report)
- May 17, 6 Word Essay Event – Andrew volunteered to attend/speak

Goal 3.3 Immigrant Integration

Pending areas/issues identified to focus on:

- Windows of Opportunity, 4/25
- LCNII meetings – Ken had been attending; Chris interested and will try but difficult time for him
- video – host event in community; connect with UO international student organizations and host families (Denise volunteered to work on)

Goal 3.4 & 3.5 Respond to hate, bias incidents and institutional racism

Pending areas/issues identified to focus on:

- Training in addressing systemic racism (item for FY14 work plan)
- Presentation on Equity and Opportunity Assessment – presentation is opportunity to further work around CERD
- Periodic City Council newsletter article on hate/bias complaints/activity
- Prepare work planning with review of past hate/bias activity (previous year annual report and recent activity); consider way to keep HRC abreast on hate/bias activity throughout the year
- Be campaign (item for FY14 work plan)

8. Commissioner Updates

Denise Grieswich: connected with Auditor for Civilian Review Board liaison connection, complaint regarding racial profiling addressed at April 9 meeting, neighbor spotted youth that she didn't recognize, there had been many break-ins, called neighbor who is EPD who was on duty, saw youth walking didn't approach him until the person jay-walked, very nervous at first didn't want to tell them where he lived, EPD tried to do mediation, family declined, this is the type of complaint the HRC should be concerned with, the auditor does the research and investigation, will continue to report observations

Richie Weinman: pass

Andrew Thomson: Active in Accessibility Advisory Group – ADA transition plan, making improvements and community members give recommendations for areas that need to be addressed as the City looks to make improvements

Toni Gyatso: DPSZ committee meetings, thinking about going to Bend to investigate downtown because it is thriving and seems like a good model, City Council has been contacted by Toni to talk to BPD and Downtown Business Association, investigating Bend's exclusion zone.

Chris Nunes: CDBG discussion due to sequester in ADA budget items and business development, since we haven't given money to the ADA in the past two year that this not be cut, there was a second vote, it still passed but the dissenting vote was recorded and that is important.

Iva Boslough: Mental health issues seem to be coming up, thinks this is the next issue for human rights, medication questions, public behavior, hopes that the human rights commission sees how mental health folds into the conversation in the future.

9. Check Out

Toni Gyatso: busy months, appreciate everyone's time and effort

Chris Nunes: LCNII event coming up, looking forward to DisOrient

Iva Boslough: Looking forward to tomato planting

Denise Grieswich: Pass

Richie Weinman: Good meeting, going to see the Dalai Lama,

Andrew Thomson: Looking forward to upcoming meetings

Adjourned 8:15 p.m.